

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of July 9, 2004. Claims 2 – 11, 13 – 19, 23, 24 and 26 – 30 have been amended. Claims 1, 12, 25 and 31 – 35 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 – 30 are pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings. New drawings are submitted herewith with the corrections shown in red. The Examiner's proposed changes have been made and additional minor drawing corrections noted in reviewing the drawings and specification have also been included. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the specification due to missing references to reference numeral 526 of Figure 5. This has been corrected by an amendment to the specification. Another minor correction has been made. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 6 – 12, 17 – 19 and 23 - 25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roy et al. (6,560,105) in view of Coclaser et al. (6,674,129). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

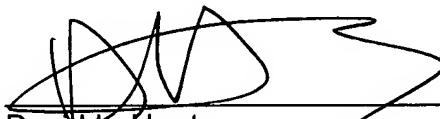
To expedite prosecution the claims have been amended to rewrite the allowed claims in independent form and the rejected independent claims have been cancelled. The remaining claims have been amended to depend from the rewritten allowed independent claims. Additional minor amendments have been made for clarity and not patentability reasons. Applicants do not acquiesce in the prior art rejections and reserve the right to pursue claims of the same or similar scope as the cancelled claims in one or more continuation applications.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith with references recently cited in copending application serial no. 10/635,391. Applicants have reviewed these references and do not consider them to impact on the patentability of the allowed claims herein. Nonetheless, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner review these references and make them of record herein.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney if it appears that any impediment remains to allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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